IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

LABORERS' PENSION FUND, and)
LABORERS' WELFARE FUND OF THE)
HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT)
OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL)
LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL OF)
CHICAGO AND VICINITY, and LABORERS')
DISTRICT COUNCIL RETIREE HEALTH)
AND WELFARE FUND, and CATHERINE)
WENSKUS, Assistant Administrator of the)
Funds,)
Plaintiffs,) Case No. 17 c 8119
v.)
) Judge
SPINIELLO CONSTRUCTION, a New Jersey)
corporation,)
)
Defendant.)

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, Laborers' Pension Fund, Laborers' Welfare Fund of the Health and Welfare Department of the Construction and General Laborers' District Council of Chicago and Vicinity, Laborers' District Council Retiree Health and Welfare Fund (collectively "Funds"), and Cathy Wenskus (hereinafter "Wenskus"), Assistant Administrator of the Funds, by their attorneys, Patrick T. Wallace, Jerrod Olszewski, Amy N. Carollo, Katherine Mosenson, Kelly Burtzlaff, and G. Ryan Liska, for their Complaint against Defendant Spiniello Construction, a New Jersey corporation, state:

COUNT I

(Failure to Submit to an Employee Benefit Contribution Compliance Audit)

1. Jurisdiction is based on Sections 502(e)(1) and (2) and 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§1132 (e)(1) and

- (2) and 1145, Section 301(a) of the Labor Management Relations Act ("LMRA") of 1947 as amended, 29 U.S.C. §185(a), 28 U.S.C. §1331, and federal common law.
- 2. Venue is proper pursuant to Section 502(e)(2) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2), and 28 U.S.C. §1391 (a) and (b).
- 3. The Funds are multiemployer benefit plans within the meanings of Sections 3(3) and 3(37) of ERISA. 29 U.S.C. §1002(3) and 37(A). They are established and maintained pursuant to their respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust in accordance with Section 302(c)(5) of the LMRA. 29 U.S.C. § 186(c)(5). The Funds have offices and conduct business within this District.
- 4. Plaintiff Cathy Wenskus ("Wenskus") is the Assistant Administrator of the Funds, and has been duly authorized by the Funds' Trustees to act on behalf of the Funds in the collection of employer contributions owed to the Funds and to the Construction and General District Council of Chicago and Vicinity Training Fund, and with respect to the collection by the Funds of amounts which have been or are required to be withheld from the wages of employees in payment of Union dues for transmittal to the Construction and General Laborers' District Council of Chicago and Vicinity (the "Union"). With respect to such matters, Wenskus is a fiduciary of the Funds within the meaning of Section 3(21)(A) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002(21)(A).
- 5. Defendant Spiniello Construction, (hereinafter the "Company"), is a New Jersey corporation. Company does business within this District, and was at all times relevant herein an employer within the meaning of Section 3(5) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002(5), and Section 301(a) of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. §185(c).

- 6. The Union is a labor organization within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §185(a). The Union and the Company have been parties to successive collective bargaining agreements, the most recent of which became effective June 1, 2013. ("Agreement"). (A copy of the Company's written confirmation of entering into the Agreement, and the Agreement entered into between the Union and the Company which Agreement adopts and incorporates Master Agreements between the Union and various employer associations, and also binds the Company to the Funds' respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust are attached hereto as Exhibit A.)
- 7. The Funds have been duly authorized by the construction and General Laborers' District Council of Chicago and Vicinity Training Fund (the "Training Fund"), the Midwest Construction Industry Advancement Fund ("MCIAF"), the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council (the "Safety Fund"), the Laborers' Employers' Cooperation and Education Trust ("LECET"), the Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago ("CCA"), the CDCNI/CAWCC Contractors' Industry Advancement Fund (the "Wall & Ceiling Fund"), the CISCO Uniform Drug/Alcohol Abuse Program ("CISCO"), the Laborers' District Council Labor Management Committee Cooperative ("LDCMC"), the Chicago Area Independent Construction Association ("CAICA"), and the Illinois Small Pavers Association ("ISPA"), to act as an agent in the collection of contributions due to those funds.
- 8. The Agreement and the Funds' respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust obligate the Company to make contributions on behalf of its employees covered by the Agreement for pension benefits, health and welfare benefits, for the training fund and to submit monthly remittance reports in which the Company, *inter alia*, identifies the employees covered under the Agreement and the amount of contributions to be remitted to the Funds on behalf of each covered employee. Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement and the Funds' respective

Agreements and Declarations of Trust, contributions which are not submitted in a timely fashion are assessed 20 percent liquidated damages plus interest.

- 9. The Agreement and the Funds' respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust require the Company to submit its books and records to the Funds on demand for an audit to determine benefit contribution compliance.
- 10. The Agreement obligates the Company to obtain and maintain a surety bond to insure future wages, pension and welfare contributions.
- 11. Notwithstanding the obligations imposed by the Agreement and the Funds' respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust, the Company has performed covered work for the time period of April 1, 2011 forward but has failed to submit its books and records to a benefit contribution compliance audit by the Funds for the time period of April 1, 2011 forward, thereby depriving the Funds of contributions, income and information needed to administer the Funds and jeopardizing the benefits of the Funds' participants and beneficiaries.
- 12. The Company's actions in failing to submit to a benefit contribution compliance audit violate Section 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1145, and Section 301 of the LMRA. 29 U.S.C. §185, and federal common law interpreting ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132 (g)(2).
- 13. Pursuant to Section 502(g)(2) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132 (g)(2), Section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. §185, federal common law, and the terms of the Agreement and the Funds' respective Trust Agreements, the Company is liable to the Funds for delinquent contributions, liquidated damages, interest, audit costs, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and such other legal and equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Court enter a judgment against Defendant Spiniello Construction as follows:

- a. ordering Defendant Company to submit its books and records to an audit by Plaintiffs for the time period of April 1, 2011 forward;
- b. entering judgment in sum certain against Defendant Company on the amounts due and owing pursuant to the audit to be conducted, if any, including contributions, interest, liquidated damages, audit costs, and attorneys' fees and costs; and
- c. awarding Plaintiffs any further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT II

(Failure To Submit to a Union Dues Compliance Audit)

- 14. Plaintiffs reallege paragraphs 1 through 13 of Count I.
- 15. Pursuant to agreement, the Funds have been duly designated to serve as collection agents for the Union in that the Funds have been given the authority to collect from employers union dues which should have been or have been deducted from the wages of covered employees.
- 16. Dues reports and contributions are due by the 10th day following the month in which the work was performed. Dues reports and contributions which are not submitted in a timely fashion are assessed liquidated damages.
- 17. Notwithstanding the obligations imposed by the Agreement, Company has performed covered work during the time period of April 1, 2011 forward and has failed to submit its books and records to an audit by Plaintiffs for the time period of April 1, 2011 forward, thereby depriving the Union of income and information.
- 18. Pursuant to the Agreement, Company is liable to the Funds for the unpaid union dues, as well as liquidated damages, audit costs, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as the

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Union's collection agent, and such other legal and equitable relief as the Court deems

appropriate.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment against

Defendant Spiniello Construction:

a. ordering Company to submit its books and records to an audit by Plaintiffs for the

time period of April 1, 2011 forward;

b. entering judgment in sum certain against Company on the amounts due and

owing, if any, as revealed by the audit to be conducted, including dues contributions, liquidated

damages, audit costs, and attorneys' fees and costs; and

c. awarding Plaintiffs any further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems

appropriate.

November 9, 2017

Laborers' Pension Fund, et al.

By: /s/ Jerrod Olszewski

Jerrod Olszewski Laborers' Pension and Welfare Funds Office of Fund Counsel 111 W. Jackson, Suite 1415 Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 692-0051

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HEADQUARTERS OF

Construction & General Laborers' District Council of Chicago and Vicinity

Attitiated with the Laborers International Union of North America, A.E. of L. - C.I.O. -6121 WEST DIVERSEY AVENUE - CHICAGO, ILLUHOIS 60539 - PHONE: 773-237-7537 - FAX: 773-237-3417

LOCALS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 25, 75, 76, 96, 118, 149, 152, 225, 269, 288, 582, 681, 1001, 1006, 1035, 1092

INDEPENDENT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

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May 31, 2001 All additional engit ricus, dues chadred, and bringle benetics that are negotiated or become effective after May 31, 2001, shall be incorporated in this Memorandon

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